AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A digital camera comprising:

an image sensing unit for sensing a subject image;

a resolution reducer for reducing image data of a frame sensed by said image sensing unit;

a detector for detecting a degree of correlation between reduced image data of a plurality of frames from said ~~image sensing unit~~ resolution reducer before shooting;

an exposure controller for, in a case where the degree of correlation is low as a result of the detection by said detector, controlling an exposure time of said image sensing unit so as to be shorter than an exposure time in a case where the degree of correlation is high; and

a recorder for recording image data from said image sensing unit controlled by said exposure controller.

2.   (Currently Amended) A digital camera according to claim 1, further comprising a comparator for comparing a pixel level difference between the reduced image data ~~images~~ of a plurality frames with a predetermined threshold value.

3.   (Original) A digital camera according to claim 2, wherein said detector detects the degree of correlation according to the number of the pixels for which the same comparison result is obtained.

4.   (Original) A digital camera according to claim 3, wherein said detector detects the degree of correlation according to the ratio between the number of the pixels and a predetermined number of pixels.

5.   (Original) A digital camera according to claim 2, wherein said detector detects the degree of correlation according to the sum of the pixels for which the pixel level difference is not less than the predetermined threshold value.

6.   (Original) A digital camera according to claim 5, wherein said detector detects the degree of correlation according to the ratio between the sum of the pixels and a predetermined number of pixels.

7.   (Currently Amended) A digital camera according to claim 1, further comprising a display for displaying the image reduced by said resolution reducer ~~sensed by the image sensing unit~~ before shooting[[,]]
        ~~wherein said detector detects the degree of correlation from the image to be displayed by said display~~.

8.   (Currently Amended) An exposure control method of a digital camera, comprising the steps of:
        sensing a subject image by an image sensing unit;
        reducing image data of a frame sensed by said image sensing unit;
        detecting a degree of correlation between reduced image data of a plurality of frames from said image sensing unit before shooting;
        in a case where the degree of correlation is low as a result of the detection, controlling an exposure time of said image sensing unit so as to be shorter than an exposure time in a case where the degree of correlation is high; and
        recording image data from said controlled image sensing unit.

9.   (Original) A digital camera comprising:
        an image sensing unit for sensing a subject image;
        a detector for detecting a degree of correlation between image data of a plurality of frames from said image sensing unit before shooting;

a memory for storing a first program and a second program to control an exposure time of said image sensing unit respectively, wherein the exposure time based on the second program is set to be shorter than the exposure time based on the first program;

a selector for selecting the second program in the case where the degree of correlation is lower than a predetermined level; and

a recorder for recording image data from said image sensing unit controlled based on the second program.

10.   (Original) A digital camera according to claim 9, wherein said selector selects the first program in the case where the brightness of the subject is lower than a predetermined value.

11.   (Original) An exposure control method of a digital camera, comprising the steps of:

sensing a subject image by an image sensing unit;

detecting a degree of correlation between image data of a plurality of frames from said image sensing unit before shooting;

storing a first program and a second program to control an exposure time of said image sensing unit respectively, wherein the exposure time based on the second program is set to be shorter than the exposure time based on the first program;

selecting the second program in the case where the degree of correlation is lower than a predetermined level; and

recording image data from said image sensing unit controlled based on the second program.

12.   (Original) A digital camera comprising:

an image sensing unit for sensing a subject image;

a detector for detecting a degree of correlation between image data of a plurality of frames from said image sensing unit before shooting;

a memory for storing a first program and a second program to control an aperture value of said image sensing unit respectively, wherein the aperture value based on the second program is set to be smaller than the aperture value based on the first program;

a selector for selecting the second program in the case where the degree of correlation is lower than a predetermined level; and

a recorder for recording image data from said image sensing unit controlled based on the second program.

13.　　(Original)　A digital camera according to claim 12, wherein said selector selects the first program in the case where the brightness of the subject is lower than a predetermined value.

14.　　(Original)　An exposure control method of a digital camera, comprising the steps of:

sensing a subject image by an image sensing unit;

detecting a degree of correlation between image data of a plurality of frames from said image sensing unit before shooting;

storing a first program and a second program to control an aperture value of said image sensing unit respectively, wherein the aperture value based on the second program is set to be smaller than the aperture value based on the first program;

selecting the second program in the case where the degree of correlation is lower than a predetermined level; and

recording image data from said image sensing unit controlled based on the second program.